

XVIII.—Fishes from Durban, Natal,
collected by Messrs. H. W. Bell Marley and Romer Robinson,

by

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COLLECTIONS of fishes from Durban received in 1918 include examples of seven new species and of sixteen others not previously recorded from Natal.

Family CLUPEIDÆ.

Engraulis holodon, *Bouleng.*

Family MURÆNIDÆ.

Gymnomuræna xanthoptera, *Bleek.*

Family SYNGNATHIDÆ.

Syngnathus spicifer, *Rüpp.*

Family HOLOCENTRIDÆ.

Holocentrum diadema, *Lucép.*

Holocentrum sammara, *Forsk.*

Family SERRANIDÆ.

Epinephelus cæruleopunctatus, *Bloch.*

Epinephelus fuscoguttatus, *Rüpp.*

Family CHILODIPTERIDÆ.

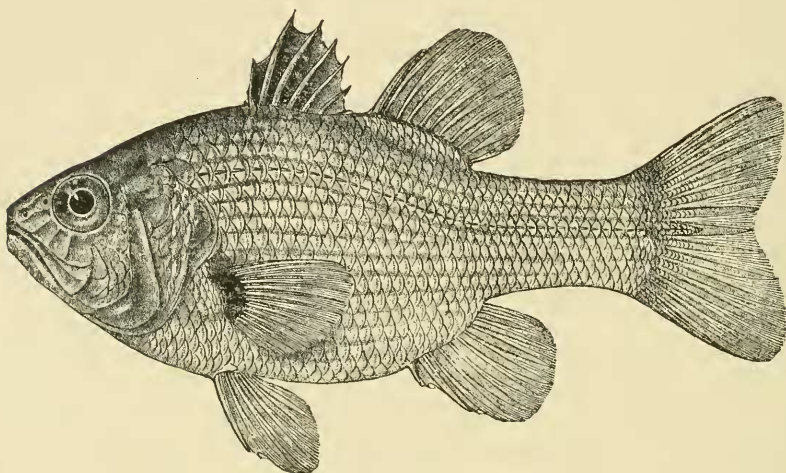
Apogon bifasciatus, *Rüpp.*

Apogon polylepis, *sp. nov.*

Depth of body $2\frac{2}{5}$ to $2\frac{3}{5}$ in the length, length of head $2\frac{2}{3}$ to 3. Snout as long as diameter of eye, which is $3\frac{2}{3}$ to 4 in length of head; interorbital width $3\frac{1}{3}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ in length of head. Jaws equal anteriorly;

maxillary extending to below posterior $\frac{1}{4}$ of eye. Præopercular margin finely serrated; ridge entire. 13 or 14 gill-rakers on lower part of anterior arch. 36 to 38 scales in a longitudinal series, 4 or 5 between middle of spinous dorsal and lateral line. Dorsal VII–VIII, 1 9–10; first spine minute, third and fourth longest, $\frac{2}{5}$ length of head; eighth spine small or absent; longest soft rays more than $\frac{1}{2}$ length of head; margin of soft fin convex. Anal II 8–9. Pectoral $\frac{2}{3}$ length of head. Caudal emarginate with rounded lobes. Caudal peduncle $1\frac{1}{2}$ as long as deep. Dark longitudinal stripes on body at the edges of the series of scales; spinous dorsal blackish; a dark spot at base of pectoral.

TEXT-FIG. 1.



APOGON POLYLEPIS.

A specimen of 190 mm. from Durban, collected by Mr. H. W. Bell Marley, and another of 120 mm. from Kurrachee. The latter had been determined as *A. noordzeiki*, Bleek., a species that is distinguished by having only three series of scales between lateral line and spinous dorsal, the third dorsal spine longer than the fourth, no dark spot at base of pectoral, etc.

Family CARANGIDÆ.

Scombroides lysan, *Forsk.*

Family POMADASIDÆ.

Diagramma griseum, Cuv. & Val.

A specimen with the coloration of *D. reticulatum*, Günth., which is a synonym of *D. griseum*.

Diagramma chubbi, sp. nov.

Depth of body $2\frac{2}{3}$ in the length, length of head $3\frac{1}{4}$. Diameter of eye 3 in length of head, a little longer than snout or interorbital width; maxillary barely reaching vertical from anterior margin of eye. 22 gill-rakers on lower part of anterior arch. 110 scales in a longitudinal

TEXT-FIG. 2.

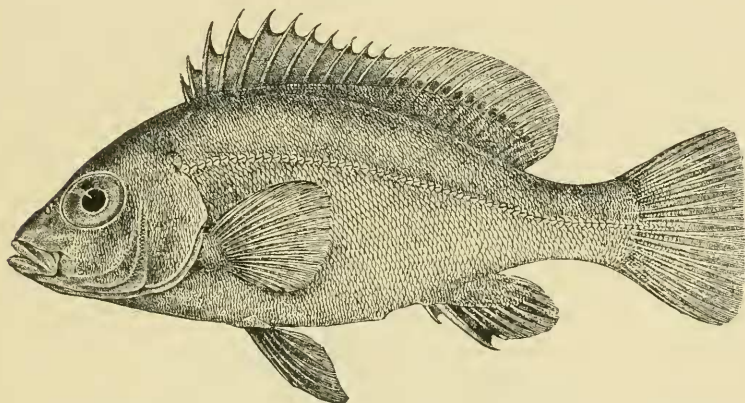


DIAGRAMMA CHUBBI.

series, 15 between spinous dorsal and lateral line; 60 pierced scales in lateral line. Dorsal XI 16; fourth to sixth spines longest, $\frac{2}{5}$ length of head, a little shorter than longest soft rays; margin of soft fin convex. Anal III 8; second spine a little longer than third, nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ length of head. Pectoral $\frac{2}{3}$ length of head; pelvics reaching vent. Caudal truncate. Caudal peduncle longer than deep. Greyish; a series of dark spots along middle of soft dorsal.

A single specimen, 123 mm. in total length; collected by Mr. H. W. Bell Marley. Named in honour of Mr. E. C. Chubb, Curator of the Durban Museum.

Family MULLIDÆ.

Upeneoides tragula, Richards.

Family SIGANIDÆ.

Siganus albopunctatus, Schleg.

Family GOBIIDÆ.

Gobius albopunctatus, Cuv. & Val.

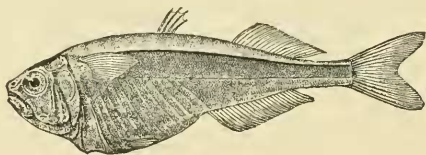
Gobiosoma diadematum, Rüpp.

Family ATHERINIDÆ.

Iso natalensis, *sp. nov.*

Depth of body $3\frac{1}{4}$ in the length, length of head $4\frac{2}{3}$. Snout shorter than diameter of eye, which is as long as postorbital part of head. Maxillary extending to below anterior $\frac{1}{4}$ of eye; lower jaw shorter than upper. Dorsal IV, 1 16. Anal I 22. A broad bluish-silvery lateral band, margined above with a blackish stripe.

TEXT-FIG. 3.



ISO NATALENSIS.

A single specimen, 52 mm. in total length, collected by Mr. H. W. Bell Marley.

The genus *Iso* was established for the Japanese *Iso flos-maris*, Jord. & Starks,* which has the depth of body 5 in the length, but is very similar in other characters to the species here described. The occurrence of a second species of this curious specialized genus on the coast of Natal is of interest.

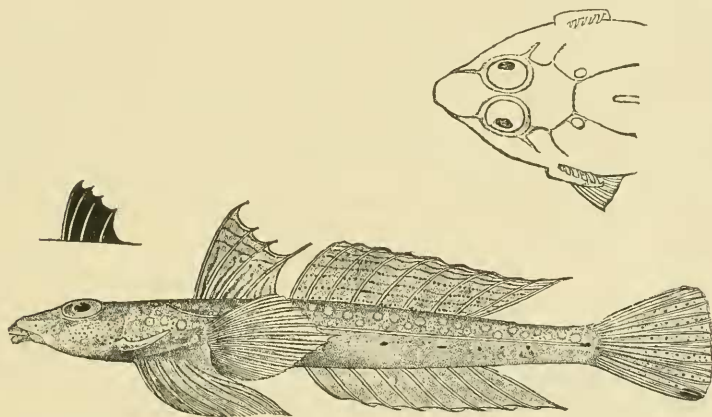
* Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus., vol. XXIV, 1901, p. 205, fig.

Family CALLIONYMIDÆ.

Callionymus marleyi, *sp. nov.*

Length of head, to gill-opening, $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 in length of fish. Eyes narrowly separated; diameter $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 in length of head. Mouth small; præmaxillary band of teeth with lateral horns diverging slightly backwards and nearly equal in length to the transverse anterior portion of the band. Præopercular spine straight, with curved tip, with 3 to 5 tooth-like processes on inner edge and with an antrorse process at base externally. Gill-openings small, superior. Lateral line single. Dorsal IV, 9; male with spinous dorsal rather elevated, with the tips of the spines only slightly projecting beyond the membrane, and the first and last spines longest, a little shorter than head; female with first and second spines longest, $\frac{1}{2}$ length of head, last ray of soft dorsal produced, but not reaching caudal. Anal 9. Caudal not longer than head. Head and body with scattered

TEXT-FIG. 4.



CALLIONYMUS MARLEYI.

dark dots and pale spots enclosed in dark rings; a lateral series of dark spots; spinous dorsal, in male, with linear markings, in female blackish; soft dorsal with longitudinal lines or series of small spots; caudal spotted.

Previously, I identified a female of this species, 85 mm. long, as *Callionymus cooperi*, Regan.* Examination of a male of 95 mm.

* Annals Durban Museum, Vol. II, pt. 2, p. 77.

collected by Mr. Bell Marley shows that this was incorrect, as males of *C. cooperi*, have the first three dorsal spines produced into very long filaments. Careful comparison of the two species reveals another difference, *C. cooperi* having a somewhat wider mouth, with the premaxillary band of teeth evenly curved and not produced backwards at the sides.

Family BLENNIDÆ.

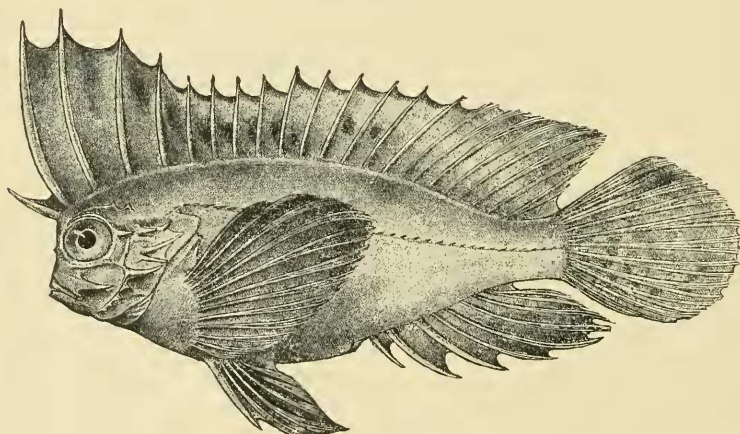
Blennius cornutus, Linn.

Family SCORPÆNIDÆ.

Amblyapistus marleyi, *sp. nov.*

Depth of body $2\frac{4}{5}$ in the length, length of head $3\frac{3}{5}$. Diameter of eye 3 in length of head; maxillary extending to below anterior $\frac{1}{4}$ of eye; anterior profile of head nearly vertical, slightly concave; præorbital and præopercular spines strong; when laid back the former reaches to below the posterior edge of the eye and the latter to the opercular margin. Dorsal XV 8; first spine short, above anterior margin of eye; second and third longest; $\frac{1}{3}$ the length of the fish (without caudal) and twice as long as the sixth and seventh, which are the shortest and about $\frac{3}{4}$ as long as the last. Anal III 6. Pectorals 12-rayed, extending a little beyond origin of anal. Brownish, spotted and marbled with blackish.

TEXT-FIG. 5.



AMBLYAPISTUS MARLEYI.

A single specimen, 130 mm. in total length, collected by Mr. H. W. Bell Marley. The long præorbital and præopercular spines distinguish this species from its nearest allies, *A. taenianotus*, Cuv. & Val. and *A. crista-galli*, Günth.

Family BALISTIDÆ.

Monacanthus melanocephalus, Bleek.

Family TETRODONTIDÆ.

Tetrodon pleurospilus, *sp. nov.*

Length of head $3\frac{1}{3}$ in length of fish. Lower teeth $\frac{2}{3}$ as broad as upper. Nasal tentacle bilobed, apparently formed as in *T. palembangensis*. Eyes above level of mouth. Diameter of eye nearly $\frac{1}{4}$, interorbital width a little more than $\frac{1}{3}$ length of head. Body smooth except for a patch of spines on abdomen, extending from below the eyes to within a short distance of the vent. Dorsal with 9 rays, anal with 7, pectoral with 15. Caudal subtruncate, its posterior margin slightly convex. Back brownish, abdomen white; sides with dark spots forming about three irregular longitudinal series, the spots of the lowest series confluent anteriorly to form a stripe from mouth to lower end of base of pectoral.

A single specimen, 200 mm. in total length, from Durban, collected by Mr. H. W. Bell Marley.

Family DIODONTIDÆ.

Diodon orbicularis, Bloch.

Family CYNOGLOSSIDÆ.

Plagusia robinsoni, *sp. nov.*

Depth of body $3\frac{1}{2}$ in the length, length of head $3\frac{5}{6}$. Snout obtusely pointed, nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ length of head. Eyes one diameter apart; $\frac{2}{3}$ of upper in advance of lower; diameter 14 in length of head. Angle

of mouth below middle of lower eye; rostral hook extending to vertical from middle of upper eye. Scales ctenoid; two lateral lines on eyed side, with 17 rows of scales between them; no lateral line on blind side. Dorsal fin with 107 rays, anal with 82. Greyish.

A single specimen, 240 mm. in total length, collected by Mr. Romer Robinson. *P. africana*, Gilchrist, differs in the rounded snout, the longer rostral hook, and the cleft of the mouth extending further back.

TEXT-FIG. 6.



PLAGUSIA ROBINSONI.